

SANAC NEWS



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Meet SANAC's newest doctors!



Dr. Lifutso Motsieloa
Technical Advisor M&E
(Strategic Information)

Congratulations to Dr. Lifutso Motsieloa and Dr. Mashudu Rampilo who both recently graduated with PhDs in Public Health.

Dr. Motsieloa's thesis is titled "Evaluation of the Differentiated Service Delivery Model in Improving HIV Treatment Outcomes Among Female Sex Workers in Gauteng Province, South Africa: A Framework for Decentralization of HIV Care".

Dr. Rampilo's thesis is titled "Piloting the inclusion of the key population's unique identifier code in the South African routine health information management system: A Framework for improved HIV monitoring and programming".



Dr. Mashudu Rampilo
Technical Advisor M&E
(Technical Support Unit)

“Congratulations
Dr. Motsieloa
and
Dr. Rampilo”

EDITOR'S NOTE



Nelson Dlamini

We bring you yet another jam-packed edition of SANAC News, and we open on a congratulatory note – two of our colleagues have graduated with PhDs in Public Health: Ms. Lifutso Motsieloa (now Dr. Motsieloa) and Mr. Mashudu Rampilo (now Dr. Rampilo), bringing the total number of doctors at SANAC to six. This is not just a personal achievement but strengthens SANAC's position as a thought leader on HIV, TB and STIs nationally and regionally. Yip, Yip, Hooray!!

We have just returned from one of SANAC's major calendar events: the official commemoration of World TB Day which was hosted in Caledon, Western Cape. Despite significant funding constraints that curtailed build-up activities and prevented the Secretariat from funding Civil Society Forum members to attend, the event was a resounding success – testament to the Secretariat's ability to deliver against all odds! (See page 3)

Late last year we welcomed two new Heads of Secretariats: Mr. Sandile "Zungu" Ndlovu for KwaZulu-Natal and Dr. Nousheena Firfirey for the Western Cape. An induction for KZN has taken place; WC will soon follow. The proper functioning of AIDS Councils is paramount in the coordination of SANAC work in provinces, which are the heartbeats of programme implementation – read more on this on pages 15 and 16.

You will note this edition is missing the regular Research Corner column by Colisile Mathonsi, who left SANAC towards the end of Quarter 4. She was one of the colleagues affected by US funding cuts – yep, we continue to feel the effects of that fateful decision by President Trump. Coli was passionate about making research accessible by simplifying science for the ordinary man down the street. We will indeed miss her insights and wish her well in her future endeavours.

We are preparing for the biennial 9th SA TB Conference, taking place from 8 to 11 June at Birchwood, Kempton Park (City of Ekurhuleni). The conference brings together experts, clinicians, researchers and civil society to share TB research, strengthen TB and HIV integration, and accelerate efforts to end the epidemic in South Africa through collaborative, evidence-based approaches. SANAC executives and technical advisers are playing various roles, from chairing conference committees to securing the Deputy President, Health Minister, Gauteng Premier and Ekurhuleni Mayor to open and close the conference. There will be a wrap up story in the next issue so keep your eyes peeled.

May will be quite a busy month: two major activities are planned – the launch of the Cervical Cancer Strategy by the Minister of Health, followed by the launch of Lenacapavir by President Ramaphosa. Both are groundbreaking interventions to improve the management of these public health challenges – there will also be an update on this in the next edition of SANAC News.

Happy reading!

Nelson



World TB Day Commemoration 2026 in Caledon, Western Cape

- Karabo Makgato



SANAC Chairperson Deputy President Paul Mashatile Delivering the Keynote Address at World TB Day Commemoration

On 24 March 2026, South Africa marked World TB Day 2026 with a commanding national commemoration held at the Caledon Sports Grounds in the Overberg District, Western Cape. The event, led by Paul Mashatile in his capacity as Chairperson of the SANAC, brought together government leaders, civil society, development partners, and communities in a united call to end tuberculosis (TB).

Observed annually on 24 March, World TB Day raises awareness about the devastating health, social, and economic impact of TB. Despite significant progress, South Africa remains among the countries most affected by the disease, with TB continuing to be the leading cause of death, particularly among people living with HIV.

The 2026 commemoration was held under the national theme "Yes! You and I Can End TB," an adaptation of the global call that places responsibility on every individual and sector of society. The theme underscores the importance of collective action, leadership, and personal responsibility in driving South Africa's TB response forward. Deputy President Mashatile was joined by key stakeholders including

SANAC Civil Society Chairperson Solly Nduku, Minister of Health, Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi, Western Cape MEC for Health & Wellness, Ms. Mireille Wenger, and SANAC CEO Thembisile Xulu, among others. Representatives from the United Nations, research institutions, civil society movements, and the private sector also participated, reflecting the whole-of-society approach required to combat TB.

The commemoration extended beyond a ceremonial gathering, serving as a structured, community-centred outreach event. The Caledon Sports Grounds hosted a variety of health and other government services, including mobile health units providing on-site TB and HIV screening and testing.

Earlier in the day, Deputy President Mashatile and his delegation visited the Caledon Clinic to assess local TB services and engage with healthcare workers, reinforcing government's commitment to strengthening frontline healthcare delivery.

In his keynote address, Deputy President Mashatile acknowledged the progress made in South Africa's TB response, including a significant reduction in TB incidence since 2015 and improved treatment outcomes for drug-resistant TB. He highlighted that over 3.5 million tests have been



SANAC CSF Chairperson Mr. Solly Nduku Delivering a Message of Support on behalf of Civil Society

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conducted under the End TB Campaign—an important milestone in the country's effort to find and treat missing TB cases.

However, Deputy President also cautioned that challenges remain. TB deaths have only declined by 17% since 2015, falling short of the 75% reduction target. Additionally, many people affected by TB continue to face severe socio-economic barriers, underscoring the need for a more patient-centred and inclusive approach. “We must find TB to end TB,” Mashatile emphasised, calling for early detection, improved access to care, and strengthened community support systems.

Civil society called on all South Africans to:

- Get tested for TB and know their HIV status
- Complete treatment if diagnosed
- Support affected individuals and families
- Promote awareness and reduce stigma

The forum also welcomed key interventions such as the national TB dashboard and the establishment of parliamentary TB caucuses, which strengthen accountability and political oversight.

The 2026 World TB Day commemoration reinforced the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs (2023–2028), with a strong focus on scaling up the End TB Campaign. This initiative aims to test 5 million people annually through expanded screening, integrated healthcare services, and strengthened partnerships.

The programme featured a range of speakers who reinforced the urgency of the TB response. A moving testimony from TB survivor and ambassador Sarah Bakamela highlighted the human impact of the disease and the importance of treatment adherence and community support.

Civil society remains a critical pillar in South Africa's TB response. In a statement of support, SANAC Civil Society Chairperson Solly Nduku reaffirmed the sector's commitment to community mobilisation, education, and advocacy.



SANAC CEO Dr. Thembisile Xulu and Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Joe Phaahla at World TB Day Commemoration



World TB Day Commemoration

Innovations such as near point-of-care diagnostic testing, set to roll out in pilot form later this year, are expected to bring services closer to communities, improving access and accelerating diagnosis.

As the event concluded, the Deputy President called for renewed commitment, urging South Africans “to get tested, to seek treatment promptly, to complete treatment if infected, and to support one another.”

“ Civil society remains a critical pillar in South Africa's TB response. - Mr. Solly Nduku ”

Civil Society Forum Brings Policy to Life Ahead of World TB Day

- Simangaliso Motsepe

Ahead of this year's World TB Day commemoration, the SANAC Civil Society Forum, in collaboration with the National Department of Health and the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, convened a TB Symposium at Victoria Hall in Caledon, Overberg District Municipality, on 23 March 2026. The symposium formed part of the build-up to the main commemoration held at the Caledon Sports Ground the following day, reinforcing a coordinated national effort to end tuberculosis (TB).



Global Fund CCM Co-Chair Ms. Mulalo Murudi speaking at the TB Symposium

Observed under the global theme “Yes, you and I can End TB,” World TB Day continues to highlight the urgent need for collective responsibility and sustained action. In this context, the symposium provided a critical platform for reflection, knowledge-sharing, and alignment among stakeholders, while amplifying the role of communities in shaping effective responses to both TB and HIV.

Bringing together senior government officials, civil society leaders, political representatives, and local community members, the symposium created a safe and inclusive space for dialogue and accountability. Participants engaged in honest reflections on both the progress made and the persistent challenges in the fight against TB.

The programme featured an overview of the SANAC Civil Society Forum and its role in advancing community-led responses to HIV and TB. Key presentations included findings from the Stigma Index, which highlighted the ongoing impact of stigma and discrimination on access to care, as well as a comprehensive HIV/TB situational analysis. These insights set the stage for robust discussions focused on closing treatment gaps, improving service delivery, and accelerating progress toward ending TB.

Community voices remained central throughout the dialogue. Individuals shared powerful lived experiences of contracting TB, undergoing treatment, and ultimately recovering. These testimonies reinforced a vital

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The TB Symposium and the subsequent World TB Day commemoration demonstrated the power of collective action. By bringing together government, civil society, and communities, the events reinforced the importance of partnerships in addressing public health challenges and affirmed a shared national commitment to accelerating efforts to end TB.

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Community Members and CSF Leadership at the TB Symposium

message: TB is curable, and successful treatment depends on early detection and strict adherence to the standard six-month treatment regimen. By placing human stories at the forefront, the symposium helped to break down stigma, inspire hope, and encourage more people to seek testing and care.

Civil society organisations, including organised labour through COSATU, played a key role in mobilising participation—particularly among farm workers in the Caledon area. As a predominantly agricultural community, many farm workers face structural barriers to accessing healthcare, making them especially vulnerable to TB. Their inclusion ensured that awareness, screening services, and critical health information reached those most at risk.

The discussions also underscored the importance of sustained investment in health programmes. Ms. Mulalo Murudi of COSATU, speaking in her capacity as Co-Chair of the South African Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Board, noted that approximately US\$402 million has been secured through the Global Fund to support HIV and TB programmes in South Africa. This funding is expected to strengthen service delivery and support the rollout of innovative prevention solutions, including Lenacapavir, a long-acting HIV prevention option set to be introduced at health facilities nationwide. She further emphasised the need for government to prioritise sustainability to ensure long-term impact beyond donor support.



SANAC Civil Society Forum Representatives participating in a panel discussion

The TB Symposium and the subsequent World TB Day commemoration demonstrated the power of collective action. By bringing together government, civil society, and communities, the events reinforced the importance of partnerships in addressing public health challenges and affirmed a shared national commitment to accelerating efforts to end TB.

Bringing Opportunity Closer to Home: Iindlela Career Fair Empowers Youth in Ga-Tauetsoala

- Karabo Makgato

On 12 March 2026, SANAC, in partnership with the Department of Social Development and key stakeholders, successfully hosted a vibrant Iindlela Career Fair at the Ga-Tauetsoala Community Care Centre in Limpopo. The event followed closely on the heels of another impactful career fair held in Giyani on 10 March 2026, forming part of a broader, community-driven initiative to expand access to career guidance and economic opportunities for young people in rural areas. Across South Africa, youth, particularly those in rural communities, continue to face significant barriers in accessing information about

higher education, career pathways, and labour market demands. With youth unemployment (ages 15–24) remaining alarmingly high at 58.5% and over 3.5 million young people classified as not in employment, education, or training (NEET), the need for targeted, scalable interventions has never been more urgent. These realities are further compounded by high school dropout rates, especially in marginalised communities, underscoring the importance of early and sustained career guidance.

“The Career Fair in Ga-Tauetsoala directly responded to these challenges by creating a dynamic platform where over 500 young people, including high school learners, out-of-school youth, and beneficiaries of the CCC training programme, could explore diverse career opportunities.”

Providing background on the programme through which these Career Fairs are implemented, SANAC Programme Manager, Ms. Nomfundo Mbuli, said; “The Department of Social Development (DSD) is implementing the Orphaned and Vulnerable Children and Youth (OVCY) Skills Development Project through a cooperation agreement between the governments of South Africa and Germany, with funding from the German Development Bank (KfW). The South African National AIDS Council is coordinating the implementation in partnership with a service provider.

The project is being implemented across 17 designated Community Care Centres in rural areas of Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, and North West, in response to the persistent challenges of youth unemployment, limited access to information, inadequate educational support, and a lack of opportunities for skills development and work experience.



Dr. Masindi Mashapa from the HIV and AIDS Unit at DSD addressing learners

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Learners at the Career Fair

It seeks to empower orphans, vulnerable children, and youth aged 15–24 to become responsible, self-sufficient, and self-reliant adults, while supporting their meaningful integration into the labour market and broader society. Importantly, the programme also provides protection against the vulnerabilities associated with prolonged unemployment, particularly among young women. This initiative is aligned with Goal 1 of the NSP (2023–2028), which focuses on removing barriers to HIV, TB, and STI outcomes by expanding access to economic strengthening opportunities,” said Ms. Mbuli.

The Career Fair in Ga-Tavetsoala directly responded to these challenges by creating a dynamic platform where over 500 young people, including high school learners, out-of-school youth, and beneficiaries of the CCC training programme, could explore diverse career opportunities. The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including universities, TVET colleges, training providers, local businesses, and industry professionals. Through interactive career booths, live demonstrations, and networking sessions, participants were exposed to sectors such as agriculture, education, construction, and the creative industries. These engagements offered practical insights into career options, as well as information on learnerships, internships, and entrepreneurship opportunities.



Learners engaging with Exhibitors at the Career Fair

Beyond information sharing through speeches and presentations by institutions, industry experts, and professionals, the fair fostered meaningful connections. Learners from surrounding schools had the opportunity to engage directly with potential employers, mentors, and training institutions, enabling them to build networks that can support their transition into employment or further study. Parents and community members were also actively included, reinforcing the importance of collective support in shaping young people’s aspirations.

The success of the Ga-Tavetsoala Career Fair, alongside the earlier event in Giyani, highlights the true statement of power of localised, collaborative approaches in addressing systemic challenges. By bringing resources directly into communities, the lindlela Career Fairs are not only expanding access to information but also restoring hope among young people.

PinkDrive Commemorates World Cancer Day in Orange Farm

- Simangaliso Motsepe



PinkDrive CEO Ms. Noelene Kotschan speaking at the Cancer Awareness Campaign.

PinkDrive commemorated World Cancer Day on 04 February 2026 in Orange Farm, delivering free cancer screening services and health education to underserved communities across Gauteng. Anchored in the principles of early detection, dignity, compassion, and hope, the initiative sought to raise awareness, save lives, and ensure that essential health services reach those who need them most.

In partnership with the National Department of Health (NDoH), the Department of Social Development (DSD), and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), the event was hosted at the Orange Farm Multipurpose Centre, drawing large numbers of community members in support of accessible healthcare.

This year's World Cancer Day theme, "United by Unique," emphasises patient-centred care and recognises that every individual's cancer

journey is different. The initiative also aligns with ongoing government interventions, including the nationwide HPV vaccination rollout targeting young girls to prevent cervical cancer.

PinkDrive's 2026 cancer screening activation focused on bringing essential gender-related cancer services directly to communities with limited access to healthcare. Through its fleet of mobile mammography and gynaecological units, supported by healthcare and corporate partners, PinkDrive provided a wide range of free services, including:

- Mammograms
- HPV screening and clinical breast examinations
- Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing
- Lung function assessments
- Skin cancer screening
- General health screenings and cancer education



Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Joe Phaahla addressing the community

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Attendees receiving free health services at the PinkDrive Cancer Awareness Campaign

These services not only improved access to early detection but also ensured that patients requiring further care were referred appropriately, reinforcing PinkDrive's long-standing belief that early detection can significantly prolong lives.

Distinguished guests in attendance included the Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy and cancer survivor, Ms. Samantha Graham-Maré; Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Ms. Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko; Japan's Ambassador to South Africa, Mr. Fumio Shimizu; and PinkDrive CEO and Founder, Ms. Noelene Kotschan.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Joe Phaahla, emphasised the importance of collaboration in expanding access to care: "We need to bring health services to the people who need them. All donors supporting PinkDrive are encouraged to continue assisting in providing free services. Government cannot do it alone. Cancer affects all of us in one way or another."

Reflecting on the organisation's impact, PinkDrive CEO and Founder, Ms. Noelene Kotschan, highlighted the human-centred approach of the initiative by saying, "I've met thousands of people through PinkDrive, and every day I am inspired by their strength. Despite the differences in our experiences, we are all bound by the same needs: early detection, dignity, compassion, hope, and access to care. United by Unique reminds us that true advocacy means meeting the person first, hearing their story, and then supporting them."

Community members were encouraged to prioritise their health by undergoing regular screenings and learning about cancer risks and early warning signs. Health authorities reiterated that early detection remains one of the most effective ways to reduce cancer-related deaths and lessen the long-term burden on the healthcare system.

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Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Joe Phaahla, emphasised the importance of collaboration in expanding access to care: "We need to bring health services to the people who need them."

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Straightening Access to Quality Health Services at People's Doorsteps with Rotarians

- Karabo Makgato



L-R: Mr. Musa Mhlongo, SANAC Technical Lead Private Sector & Campaigns; Ms. Gladys Tshabalala, Gauteng Provincial CSF Chairperson; Ms. Sue Paget, RFHD CEO; Cllr. Dennis Thabe, West Rand District Municipality Executive Mayor

Rotary Family Health Days (RFHD), with support from the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), the National Department of Health (NDoH), Gift of the Givers, Impala Mines, and other key stakeholders, successfully hosted RFHD Activation Days in Kagiso (West Rand) and Rustenburg (North West) during March 2026. These activations formed part of broader national efforts to expand access to integrated primary healthcare services, while reinforcing tuberculosis (TB) and HIV prevention during TB Awareness Month and the lead-up to World TB Day.



SANAC Communications Manager Mr. Nelson Dlamini speaking at the activation in Robega in Rustenburg

Held on 5–6 March 2026 in Kagiso and 26–27 March 2026 in Rustenburg, the activations brought essential healthcare services directly into communities, addressing persistent barriers such as distance, cost, and long waiting times at health facilities. For many residents, these interventions provided not just convenience, but critical access to early diagnosis, treatment initiation, referrals, and in some cases, life-changing healthcare interventions.

The RFHD model continues to demonstrate the power of community-based, integrated service delivery. By offering a “one-stop” platform for multiple health services, including TB screening, HIV testing, non-communicable disease screening, and sexual and reproductive health services, community members were able to access comprehensive care in a single visit.

In Kagiso, the activation reached over 1,000 beneficiaries, delivering more than 4,400 health services across two days, far exceeding initial targets. This strong turnout highlighted both the demand for accessible healthcare and the effectiveness of community mobilisation efforts. Similarly, the Rustenburg activation achieved significant impact,

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Community members in Robega Rustenburg

reaching approximately 1,549 beneficiaries and delivering thousands of integrated health services. The intervention specifically targeted underserved communities in the Macharora villages, where access to healthcare facilities is limited and often requires long-distance travel.

Both activations were strategically aligned with World TB Month, placing strong emphasis on TB awareness, screening, and early detection. In Rustenburg, the introduction of rapid TB screening enhanced early diagnosis and strengthened linkage to care, an essential step in reducing the burden of TB in mining-affected and peri-urban communities.

HIV services were also widely utilised across both sites, reinforcing SANAC's ongoing efforts to close gaps in testing and treatment. These services were complemented by health education, empowering community members with the knowledge needed to make informed health decisions. The success of both activations was driven by a strong public-

private partnership model, with SANAC playing a central role in aligning interventions to national HIV and TB priorities, leading a multisectoral approach, and supporting community mobilisation. This collaborative effort enabled the pooling of resources, expertise, and infrastructure to deliver high-impact services at scale.

Feedback from community members across both sites was overwhelmingly positive. Participants highlighted the convenience of accessing multiple services in one location, reduced travel costs, and respectful, safe service environments. In Kagiso, over 80% of participants reported satisfaction, with 99% feeling safe and 97% indicating that their privacy was respected. In Rustenburg, high levels of repeat attendance reflected growing trust and acceptance of the RFHD programme within communities.

RFHD Activation Days in Kagiso and Rustenburg show how community-centred healthcare helps break down barriers and deliver better health outcomes. By bringing services closer to where people live, the programme not only increases access but also strengthens health-seeking behaviour, promotes early detection, and enhances community awareness.

For SANAC, these activations represent a critical contribution to the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB, and STIs, particularly in closing gaps in prevention, testing, and care. As partnerships continue to evolve and strengthen, RFHD remains a powerful platform for delivering integrated, people-centred healthcare to communities that need it most.

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RFHD Activation Days in Kagiso and Rustenburg show how community-centred healthcare helps break down barriers and deliver better health outcomes.

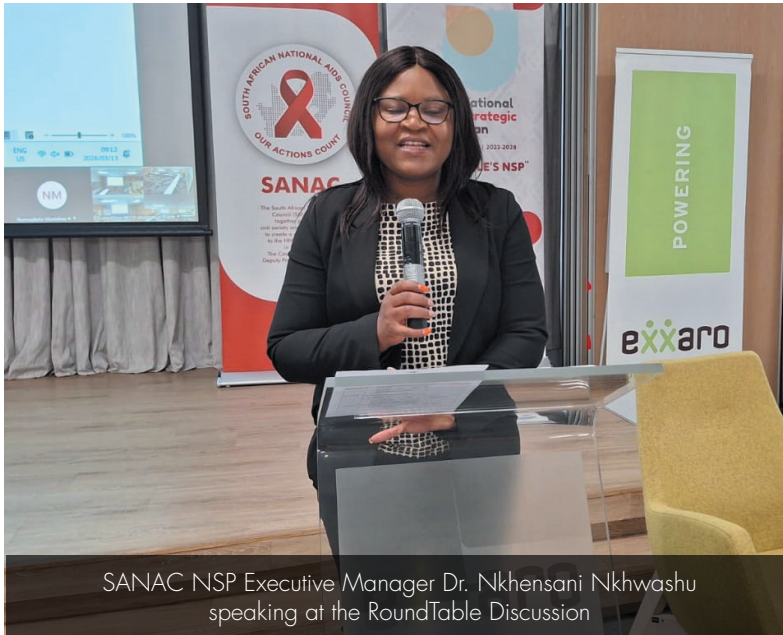
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Community members waiting to receive health services

Bridging the Gaps in TB Response: Strengthening TIMS Interventions in the Mining Sector

- Simangaliso Motsepe



SANAC NSP Executive Manager Dr. Nkhensani Nkhwashu speaking at the RoundTable Discussion

SANAC recently participated in a multi-stakeholder roundtable discussion on Tuberculosis in the Mining Sector (TIMS), held on 13 March 2026 at the Exxaro Lakeside Office in Centurion. The hybrid engagement brought together representatives from government, industry, civil society, and development partners to strengthen coordination, align ongoing interventions, and identify sustainable solutions to improve the TB response in mining communities.

The discussion highlighted the importance of a unified, multi-sectoral approach to addressing TB, which remains a complex public health and socio-economic challenge driven by occupational exposure, high rates of TB/HIV co-infection, cross-border labour migration, and gaps in continuity of care for ex-mineworkers.

"We need a more coordinated and integrated approach to tackling tuberculosis. While multiple initiatives are already in place across government, industry and donor partners, fragmentation continues to limit their overall impact. This roundtable is therefore an important platform to strengthen alignment and improve the effectiveness of existing efforts," said Neo Monareng of Exxaro Resources.

"A key area of focus was the need to strengthen data systems and cross-border coordination. Limited access to clinical records and diagnostic remains a significant barrier to efficient processing of compensation for deserving Ex-mineworkers for the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases and Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Diseases."

The meeting reflected on progress made through the TIMS programme, particularly with support from the Global Fund through East Central and Southern Africa – Health Community (ECSA-HC). Achievements include the establishment of regional governance structures, cross-border referral systems, and community monitoring tools across SADC countries. However, participants acknowledged that persistent challenges, such as fragmented efforts, weak data integration, delays in finalising standard operating procedures, and concerns about sustainability beyond donor funding, continue to hinder impact. "While progress has been made, mining TB programmes remain insufficiently integrated into national health systems, which limits long-term sustainability," said Dr. Nkhensani Nkhwashu of SANAC.

A key area of focus was the need to strengthen data systems and cross-border coordination. Limited access to clinical records and diagnostic remains a significant barrier to efficient processing of compensation for deserving Ex-mineworkers for the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases and Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Diseases. "The absence of integrated data systems affects the ability to accurately identify ex-mineworkers, process compensation claims efficiently, and track treatment outcomes. There is a critical need to improve access to TB sputum results, digital chest X-rays, and historical clinical records," said Dr. Barry Kistnasamy from the National Department of Health. Weak data-sharing systems across SADC countries were also identified as a major barrier to continuity of care for migrant mineworkers.

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Dr. Barry Kistnasamy from the Department of Health at the Roundtable

The discussion also highlighted progress in ex-mineworker compensation, with over 26,000 claims paid to date, amounting to approximately R2.5 billion. Despite this milestone, identifying and reaching eligible former mineworkers, many of whom reside in rural and underserved communities, remains a significant challenge. Participants emphasised the importance of strengthening community-based interventions and referral pathways to better support this group.

Concerns were raised about funding reductions under Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 (GC7), which have affected key initiatives such as database integration, data consolidation, and technology

innovations for screening and tracking. Stakeholders noted that clearer communication and stronger alignment with implementing partners are needed to mitigate the impact of these changes. At the same time, the private sector was recognised for its progress in reducing TB incidence among mineworkers through improved occupational health systems, expanded screening programmes, and strong public-private partnerships.

Overall, the round table underscored several critical priorities: improving TB data systems and access, strengthening referral pathways for ex-mineworkers, enhancing cross-border collaboration,



Delegates at the TB Roundtable

expanding community-level interventions, and deepening public-private partnerships. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs clearly highlights the integration of TIMS interventions and calls for alignment with broader national priorities to ensure maximum impact.

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“The discussion also highlighted progress in ex-mineworker compensation, with over 26,000 claims paid to date, amounting to approximately R2.5 billion.”

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New Faces, New Energy: Welcoming Our New PCA Heads of Secretariat in KZN and Western Cape!

- Lebowa Malaka

The SANAC family is growing! We are thrilled to introduce two vibrant new leaders who have stepped up to helm our Provincial Council on AIDS (PCA) Secretariats in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape. Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Mr. Sandile Ndlovu and Dr. Nousheena Firfirey. As we all know, the “magic” of SANAC happens when national strategy meets local action. With Sandile and Nousheena on board, our provincial engines are revving up to drive even more impactful, people-centered multi-sector response on the ground.

Meet Sandile “Zungu” Ndlovu: The Youth Advocate (KZN)

Mr. Sandile Ndlovu (affectionately known as Zungu) assumed his role as the Head of Secretariat for the KwaZulu-Natal PCA on 1 December 2025. A dedicated public servant with a deep-rooted background in social work and project management, Mr. Ndlovu brings a wealth of experience from the Departments of Social Development and Education.

With a Bachelor of Social Work, a Post Graduate Diploma in Project Management, and an MBA in progress, his career journey, from Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital to managing HIV & AIDS Life Skills grants, has been defined by a commitment to psychosocial support and community empowerment.

Mr. Ndlovu envisions a KZN PCA that is not only sustainable and well-resourced but also deeply resonant with the youth. A key priority for his tenure is the development of a robust Communication Strategy featuring engaging icons and mascots designed to drive health-seeking behavior among young people and People Living with HIV (PLHIV).



Meet Dr. Nousheena Firfirey: The Public Health Powerhouse (WC)

Joining the team on 2 February 2026, Dr. Nousheena Firfirey takes the helm of the Western Cape Provincial Council on AIDS and TB (PCAT). Dr. Firfirey is a distinguished public health specialist with over 19 years of experience in policy development, stakeholder engagement, and data-driven strategy. She holds a PhD in Occupational Therapy, with specialized research into client-centered interventions for adults with drug-resistant tuberculosis, a background that provides her with a unique perspective on the intersection of clinical care and systemic coordination.

Dr. Firfirey is committed to building a responsive, inclusive, and accountable platforms. Her focus is on ensuring that provincial policies translate into integrated, people-centered services that improve outcomes for the communities most affected by HIV and TB in the Western Cape.

The addition of Mr. Ndlovu and Dr. Firfirey to the collective of SANAC Heads of Secretariat strengthens our ability to foster “governance, leadership, coordination, and accountability” across all provinces and brings fresh perspectives to our collective. Whether it’s Sandile’s creative community engagement or Nousheena’s strategic public health approach, our provincial coordination has never looked stronger. Next time you see them in a meeting or on a call, be sure to say Hi! We’re excited to see the amazing things we’ll achieve together.

Induction for new KZN PCA HoS and Reorientation for the Secretariat

- Lebowa Malaka and Khanya Ralarala



L-R: Ms. Innocencia Dlungwane, Mr. Khanya Ralarala, Mr. Lebowa Malaka, Mr. Sandile Ndlovu

In a strategic move to fortify provincial coordination and enhance the multi-sectoral response to HIV, TB, and STIs, the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) recently concluded a high-level Induction and Secretariat Reorientation session for the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Council on AIDS (KZN PCA). The two-day session, held in Pietermaritzburg on 16–17 March 2026, served a dual purpose:

The induction, led by Mr. Lebowa Malaka and supported by Mr. Khanya Ralarala, focused on the complex architecture of the multi-sectoral response. For the KZN team, the induction took a deep dive into unpacking governance, leadership, planning, coordination, accountability and standardisation of SANAC structures. On granular content details, the induction and reorientation unpacked the architecture, mandates, role and responsibilities of all SANAC structures including institutional arrangements.

"Our Provincial Secretariats are the engines of the NSP, and therefore, central to a coordinated and functional multi-sectoral response" noted

formally onboarding the new Head of Secretariat (HoS), Mr. Sandile Ndlovu, and reorienting the entire PCA Secretariat team. This approach underscores SANAC's commitment to a "One SANAC" philosophy, ensuring that provincial leadership is not only visionary but supported by a cohesive, high-performing team capable of driving the National Strategic Plan (NSP) at the local level.

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A distinctive feature of the KZN session was the deliberate focus on team reorientation. SANAC views the appointment of a new HoS as an opportune moment to recalibrate the entire Secretariat. The program included dedicated segments for team building, designed to foster a collaborative and collegial spirit.

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Mr. Malaka during the proceedings. “By aligning our provincial structures with national standards including global best practices, we ensure that the Provincial responses are robust, strategic, data-driven, and, most importantly, accountable to the communities we serve.”

A distinctive feature of the KZN session was the deliberate focus on team reorientation. SANAC views the appointment of a new HoS as an opportune moment to recalibrate the entire Secretariat. The program included dedicated segments for team building, designed to foster a collaborative and collegial spirit.

By focusing on Secretariat Strengthening, the session aimed to:

- **Create Synergy:** Ensuring that all team members understand their roles in relation to the new leadership and the broader SANAC mandate.
- **Build Capacity:** Equipping the Secretariat to better support Municipal, District, and Local AIDS Councils.
- **Foster Collaboration:** Strengthening the relationship between the Secretariat and its diverse stakeholders, including Government, Civil Society (CSF), and the Private Sector (PSF).

The discussions regarding institutional arrangements and funding frameworks provided a clear roadmap for the PCA’s operational sustainability within the provincial government structure. This discussion aligned well with Mr. Ndlovu’s vision of a sustainable, community-empowered and politically supported PCA. As Mr. Ndlovu takes the helm, supported by a re-energised and aligned Secretariat, the focus shifts toward impact. The session concluded with a look at the SANAC planning environment and the transition process, ensuring that there is no loss of momentum in the province’s fight against HIV, TB, and STIs. The session on SANAC planning environment would include an engagement with Civil Society to share priorities and discuss role clarification. However, for KZN, the session with Civil Society could not take place due to the challenges of Civil Society Leadership in the province.

Through these strategic inductions, SANAC is not looking at PCAs just filling vacancies; but creating “winning teams.” The KZN session stands as a blueprint for how provincial coordination can be strengthened through leadership development, team synergy, and a shared commitment to the multisectoral response.



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